

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Tiling the dispersed message on the original image improves the robustness of the algorithm. For this invention, preferably, a single 256x256 dispersed message is tiled over the entire image. Upon extraction, each 256x256 region is aligned and summed to produce the final message. As disclosed in ~~commonly assigned U.S. Serial No. 09/453,247 filed December 2, 1999~~ U.S. Patent No. 6,567,532, issued on May 20, 2003, for imaging applications with severe quality loss, such as small images printed using ink-jet printers on paper, a weighting factor that depends on the estimated signal to noise ratio can be calculated and applied to each extracted message element before summation. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 25 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The ability to recover from cropping is an essential component of a data embedding algorithm. As disclosed in ~~commonly assigned U.S. Serial No. 09/453,160 filed December 2, 1999~~ U.S. Patent No. 6,678,390, issued on January 13, 2004, if one were to extract from an arbitrarily located 256x256 region of an embedded image, the extracted message would probably appear to be circularly shifted due to the unlikely chance that the extraction occurred along the original message boundary. --